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# President Sets Joint Review Of U.S. Disarmament Policy

By William H. Stringer

Chief of the Washington News Service  
The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

President Eisenhower is gear-  
ing up his disarmament imagi-  
nary, hoping to have new  
evaluations and new approaches  
ready for tryout—either in talks  
with the Soviets or in discus-  
sions through the United Na-  
tions; in fact, whenever oppor-  
tunity occurs.

President Eisenhower's most  
cherished objective in these  
final months of office, is to make  
some progress with the Soviet  
Union in reducing what he calls  
the "plateau of tension" between  
the two countries—the cold war  
—and cutting down the heavy  
burden of armaments.

Hence the President has ap-  
pointed Charles A. Coolidge, a

Boston lawyer, to head a joint  
review of disarmament policy  
on behalf of the Departments of  
State and Defense. Mr. Coolidge  
will be assisted by a small staff  
selected from the two depart-  
ments and other appropriate  
agencies, including the Atomic  
Energy Commission.

The review will cover the  
whole array of past and present  
disarmament proposals, ranging  
from partial to full disarmament,  
and including methods of poli-  
cymaking inspection.

The appointment of Mr. Cool-  
idge represents an attempt to  
set up a new "secretary of dis-  
armament"—the role filled by  
Harold E. Stassen two years  
ago. The administration's chief  
negotiator on arms control is  
still James W. Wadsworth, Jr.,  
who is chairman of the United

States delegation now negoti-  
ating with the Soviets and the  
United States' European Allies  
at Geneva.

Mr. Coolidge will not be ex-  
pected to advise on day-to-day  
strategy or problems in the  
Geneva talks, which are con-  
cerned with developing an  
agreed path on nuclear testing.  
Nor would he be a daily adviser  
in any new talks which might  
be initiated with the Soviet  
Union.

Vast Survey Stated

His task rather will be to sur-  
vey the whole scene, evaluate  
the problems, and come up with  
ideas and recommendations  
which he will communicate to  
the President and Secretary of  
State. These recommendations  
can be the source of new initia-  
tive by the United States, either  
through a rejuvenated disarma-  
ment commission at the United  
Nations or, conceivably, in di-  
rect talks at the summit with  
Soviet Premier Nikita S.  
Khrushchev.

The President is deeply con-  
cerned with the burden of  
armaments. He is also aware  
that there are heavy measures  
within the Soviet Union which  
might induce the Kremlin to  
reach an arms control agree-  
ment.

Moscow must pay attention to  
its own public opinion, in a de-  
gree, and there is obviously a  
growing desire among the So-  
viet people for consumer goods  
and higher living standards—  
which cannot be had in great  
quantities when the burden of  
armaments weighs heavily on  
the Soviet budget.

Stassen Hampered

President Eisenhower has re-  
cently told acquaintances that  
he thought it was possible—  
though perhaps not probable—  
that progress can be made in re-  
ducing the "plateau of tension."  
At any rate, he seems to feel  
it is worth another try.

Much, of course, will depend

on whether or not a really  
unified American policy can be  
agreed upon. Disarmament ne-  
gotiator Stassen was considerably  
hampered in his London talks  
with Soviet delegates by re-  
sistance on the part of the At-  
torney General and the Atomic  
Commission to make good a  
—to untie, for instance, the res-  
trictive disarmament package which  
Washington had espoused—and  
consider its contents plain.  
Mr. Stassen's efforts were crippled  
at from Washington.

Significantly, the President  
has placed Mr. Coolidge in

## Charles A. Coolidge

Boston lawyer to head sur-  
vey of United States dis-  
armament policy as President  
Eisenhower seeks to reduce  
"plateau of tension" in world.

charge of a "joint" review  
which will attempt to lead the  
State and Defense Departments  
toward some meeting of minds.

The President has frequently  
emphasized, in speeches and  
press conferences, how the na-  
tions of the world could pro-  
gress much faster—in raising  
living standards, routing pesti-  
lence, and assisting underdevel-  
oped countries—if the terrible  
burden of armaments were  
lifted.

Now he notes that Soviet Pre-  
mier Khrushchev is talking  
about industrial expansion and  
the raising of Soviet living  
standards. Perhaps this Soviet  
emphasis will make the Krem-  
lin more amenable to realistic  
arms control.

Or perhaps not; the President  
regards the man who makes all  
the top decisions, Mr. Khrush-  
chev, as a shrewd individual  
though not always a wise one,  
and a man of rather impulsive  
and erratic behavior. On the  
other hand, Mr. Khrushchev is  
not, in the President's view,  
reckless or irresponsible.

One thing is certain: At any  
meeting between Messrs. Eisen-  
hower and Khrushchev, the  
President will most certainly  
stress emphatically the world's

